

Message Text

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73

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SPC-01 L-02 DLOS-03 IO-03 PM-03 DODE-00

SAM-01 PRS-01 ACDA-10 DRC-01 /074 W

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R 120827Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2463

INFO CINCPAC

CINCUNC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1043

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, KS, KN

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF ISLANDS PROBLEM IN COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MEETING

REF: SEOUL 1044 (NOTAL)

1. THE FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF VERBATUM TRANSCRIPT OF
DISCUSSION NORTHWEST ISLANDS IN JANUARY 30 SNCC DEPUTY CO-CHAIR-
MEN'S MEETING:

NORTH: REGARDING THE SITUATION INVOLVING THE WESTERN SEA, IT IS
CLEARLY STIPULATED IN THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT THAT ONLY THOSE
FIVE ISLANDS AMONG OTHERS LOCATED TO THE NORTH OF THE BOUNDARY
LINE BETWEEN KYONGGI PROVINCE AND HWANGHAE PROVINCE COME UNDER THE
CONTROL OF CINCUNC. THIS IS WHAT IT SAYS.

SOUTH: IT RECOGNIZED TERRITORIAL SOVERIEGNTY. WHEN YOU HAVE
TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY THE CONTIGUOUS WATER BECOMES TERRITORIAL
WATER. THAT IS VERY OBVIOUS.

NORTH: BUT, WHAT DOES THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT SAY? THE BOUNDARY
LINE DIVIDES KYONGGI PROVINCE AND HWANGHAE PROVINCE. WHAT DOES THE
BOUNDARY LINE MEAN?

SOUTH: NO LINE WAS DRAWN IN CONNECTION WITH CONTROL. THERE IS NO
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NEED FOR US TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE HERE. I HAVE STUDIED THE MAP.

NORTH: NOT ONLY IT CLEARLY SHOWS THE BOUNDARY LINE BUT ALSO SAYS CLEARLY IN WRITING.

SOUTH: THERE IS NO LEGAL BASIS AND IT HAS NO VALUE OTHER THAN YOUR OWN NEW DESIRE. THERE IS NO SUCH BASIS WHATSOEVER IN THE INTERNATIONAL LAW.

NORTH: AS FAR AS THE ISLANDS ARE CONCERNED, THERE WILL BE NO TROUBLE IF THEY (VESSELS) COME AND GO QUIETLY. THE ISLANDS ARE ONE OF THOSE . . . TOWARD THE NORTHERN HALF.

SOUTH: WE ARE COMMUTING QUIETLY.

NORTH: THAT IS NOT TRUE.

SOUTH: WE HAVE COMMUTED QUIETLY FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS.

NORTH: THAT IS NOT TRUE. THESE ISLANDS ARE UTILIZED AS THE BASE OF OPERATIONS FOR PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS DIRECTED AGAINST OUR NORTHERN HALF. THERE WERE A NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IN THE PAST IN WHICH (YOUR SIDE) COMMITTED PROVOCATIONS AGAINST OUR SIDE AND RECEIVED PUNISHMENT. THERE WERE MANY CASES. WE WARNED YOUR SIDE EACH AND EVERY TIME. EVEN AFTER THE JULY 4TH JOINT COMMUNIQUE SIMILAR PROVOCATIONS WERE COMMITTED REPEATEDLY. THEREFORE, WE HAVE FINALLY RELEASED A STATEMENT DEMANDING (YOUR SIDE) TO REFRAIN FROM SUCH ACTS AND MADE A REASONABLE PROPOSAL TO PREVENT THEM. WE TABLED THE REASONABLE PROPOSAL AT THE MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION. WE TABLED THE PROPOSAL BECAUSE THE SOUTH SIDE PROVOKED OUR SIDE USING THESE ISLANDS. CONSEQUENTLY, IF THIS ISSUE (WHICH WAS REASONABLY RAISED) IS TO BE RESOLVED, IT SHOULD BE SETTLED AT THE MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION.

SOUTH: (YOUR SIDE) IS CREATING A STORM. PREVENTION OF SUCH TROUBLE WILL BE IN ACCORD WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE JULY 4TH JOINT COMMUNIQUE. ISN'T IT TRUE?

NORTH: THAT IS CORRECT. OUR PROPOSAL IS ALSO IN ACCORD WITH THE JULY 4TH JOINT COMMUNIQUE BECAUSE IT IS DESIGNED TO PREVENT SUCH TROUBLES.

SOUTH: YOU SHOULD NOT INTERPRET THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT IN SUCH A MANNER. WHEN YOU RECOGNIZE THE BOUNDARY LINE ON LAND AND OUR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OVER THESE ISLANDS YOU SHOULD NATURALLY RECOGNIZE THE TERRITORIAL SEA CONTIGUOUS TO THEM. I DON'T THINK YOU WOULD GAIN ANYTHING BY DISCUSSING IT HERE. LET US STOP DISCUSSING THE SUBJECT.

NORTH: THE QUESTION IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO VIOLATIONS OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT (COMMITTED BY YOUR SIDE).

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